



*Filling the Gap: The Growing Need for
Energy Assistance in Colorado*

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY DECEMBER 2005



Energy Outreach Colorado

Together we generate the power to help.

mission
STATEMENT

To ensure that all low-income Coloradans can meet their energy needs.

our
VISION

Energy Outreach Colorado strives to be Colorado’s leading organization dedicated to the efficient delivery of cost-effective energy assistance, energy conservation, and energy education for low-income households to maintain their well-being and encourage self-sufficiency.

EOC’s
SCOPE

- ♦ Funded more than \$56 million in utility assistance, energy efficiency for affordable housing and education since 1989.
- ♦ \$7.4 million 2005–06 budget.
- ♦ 105,000 Colorado households served in 2004–05

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An Appeal to Coloradans

There is a growing energy crisis amidst Colorado’s most vulnerable families and seniors. With the 40-50 percent price increase predicted for the 2005-06 heating season, **energy costs have tripled in Colorado** over the last three years. Yet, federal funding for low-income energy assistance remains stagnant. The result is a widening gap between the need for energy assistance and the available funding.

Low-income families and seniors served by Energy Outreach Colorado are like canaries in a coal mine. They are the first to feel the impact of high energy prices and have the most to lose from them. They often go without medical or dental care or delay filling a prescription or taking the full dose of a prescribed medicine. They may skip meals, suffer from excessive cold or risk their personal safety by using a kitchen range or oven as a space heater. These situations are real – and heartbreaking.

We understand that rising energy prices impact everyone – small businesses, school districts, state and local governments, individuals and families. But they can be devastating for an elderly person living on social security, a family trying to live on a minimum-wage salary or a single-mother who has recently lost her job. The **percentage of the limited income that these people pay for their energy costs is staggering** – up to 40 percent.

Our mission is to help fill the gap in energy assistance funding so that all Colorado households can afford home energy. Fortunately, Colorado is taking some important steps forward, including these recent achievements:

- ♦ Last spring, the Colorado General Assembly passed and the Governor signed a bill that gives generous Coloradans a simple way to help their struggling neighbors in need by checking a box on their utility bill and making a monthly donation to Energy Outreach.
- ♦ Due to the leadership of Coloradans, the recently enacted federal Energy Bill included a “Royalty-in-Kind” program that allows natural gas pumped from federally-owned lands to be sold and allocated to low-income energy assistance rather than being put into the federal treasury.
- ♦ We are optimistic that Colorado’s legislature will again designate excess mineral-severance tax revenues for additional energy assistance funding, as it has three times in the last several years.

Nonetheless, **much remains to be done.** Thank you for taking the time to review this report about the current status of low-income Coloradans and their critical energy needs. We hope you join us in generating the power to help.

Sincerely,

Skip Arnold

Skip Arnold
Executive Director, Energy Outreach Colorado



The Problem

COLORADO’S ENERGY POVERTY IS INCREASING

Many Coloradans can’t afford to pay their home energy bills. An alarming 22 percent of Colorado households – nearly 370,000 – have incomes that qualify for federal assistance. That means they earn less than \$34,880 for a family of four and are eligible for the Colorado LEAP program. Those with incomes below 50 percent of the federal poverty level pay a staggering 32 percent or more of their income for home energy. *(2004 Home Energy Affordability Gap Study – Fisher, Sheehan & Colton)*

Mile High United Way’s resource and referral system (211) listed utility assistance second only to rental assistance as the most requested need in several Colorado counties, according to a 2004 report. In fact, their energy assistance requests have increased more than 1,000 percent since 2002.

Energy prices are increasing dramatically. In contrast, federal funding for LEAP has been flat the last several years. There is a significant need to bridge the gap between stagnant available funding for energy assistance and the persistent home energy needs of Colorado’s low-income families.

“I am on a fixed income with Social Security disability. Additionally, I have costs for medications which cost more today than they did last year. Last year I had four prescription drugs and this year I have eight. I have no other help, no family to assist or friends that have sufficient income. Is there something you can do to help?”

~ Note received by EOC from a Colorado resident seeking assistance.



The Challenges

CURRENT ECONOMY HEIGHTENS IMPACT OF HIGH ENERGY COSTS

Colorado’s low-income households are struggling to make ends meet in the current economy. According to an October 17, 2005 article in *The Denver Post*, Wall Street forecasters predict a “cold, dark and expensive winter.” They cite, “...a convergence of rising energy prices, falling real wages and new rules taking effect by year-end that will require larger credit-card payments, which threaten to increase delinquencies at a time when a record number of borrowers are already behind on their bills.” Other media reports also paint a grim picture:

- ♦ “Colorado ranks among the top states for its foreclosure rate.” *(Denver Business Journal, August 25, 2005)*
- ♦ More than 10 percent of families with children reported that utility bills were a cause of their homelessness. *(Homelessness in Metropolitan Denver – Sixth Annual Point-In-Time Study, 2005)*
- ♦ According to a new fact book released by Housing Colorado, Colorado is 41st in the nation when it comes to housing affordability, and that may contribute to the surge in the number of homeless over the last two years. The report also states that it takes three jobs, if the pay is minimum wage, to afford an average two-bedroom apartment in Colorado. *(Housing Colorado 2005 Fact Book)*
- ♦ “According to the U.S. Department of Labor, rising energy prices rekindled inflation in metro Denver...” *(The Denver Post, August 17, 2005)*
- ♦ The American Community Survey, which was released by the U.S. Census Bureau on August 30, 2005, found that poverty in Colorado had increased to 11.1 percent in 2004 from 9.8 percent in 2003.
- ♦ According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 17.1 percent of Colorado residents are living without health insurance.



Energy Prices Skyrocketing

The U.S. Department of Energy predicts heating costs for homes using natural gas could be 47.5 percent higher than last year, the largest increase in more than 30 years. That estimate results from the latest price spikes in crude oil and natural gas.

Energy experts predict natural gas prices for the 2005-06 heating season and beyond will increase substantially over previous years. Average Rockies Index prices since the 1999-2000 heating season have been:

1999/00	\$ 2.38 / MMBTU
2000/01	\$ 5.51 / MMBTU
2001/02	\$ 1.92 / MMBTU
2002/03	\$ 3.14 / MMBTU
2003/04	\$ 4.49 / MMBTU
2004/05	\$ 5.75 / MMBTU
2005/06 (estimated)	\$ 11.67/ MMBTU

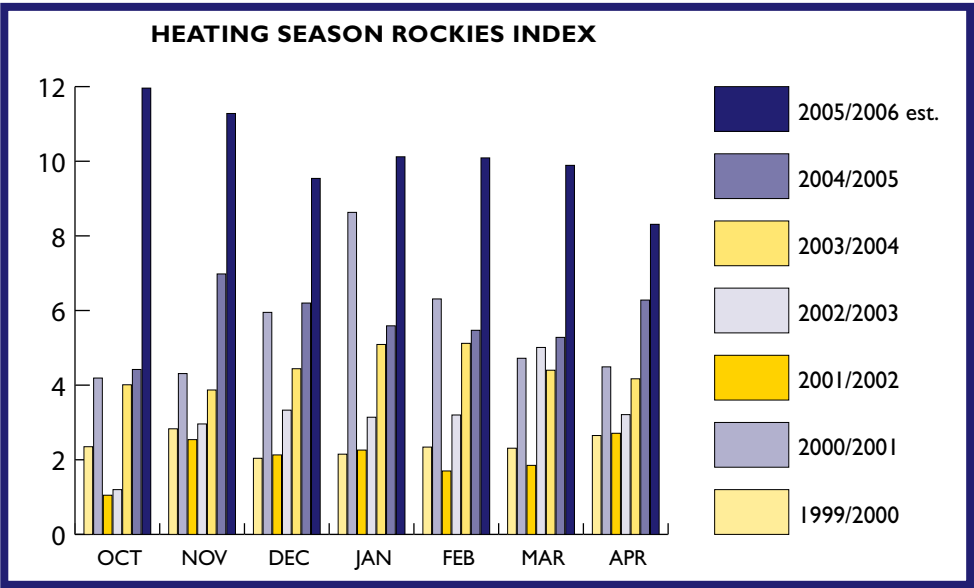
Note: An MMBTU is the equivalent of one million British Thermal Units. It is the heating value of natural gas and represents how natural gas is bought and sold.

Electricity generation is increasingly provided using natural gas and so electricity prices also are rising by more than 20 percent for Colorado families this winter. These increases in both the electric and natural gas portions of the utility bill mean that the average household will see an increase of about 40-50 percent in their total bill.

Some reasons for these increases include:

- ♦ Natural gas consumption has been growing 1-2% annually over the last several years, while domestic natural gas production has been on a slow decline of 1-2% a year.
- ♦ New technology drives an increased demand for energy, particularly in areas such as China and India.
- ♦ Electricity generation is increasingly using more of the natural gas supply, especially when summer temperatures are above average.
- ♦ Hurricanes Katrina and Rita disrupted offshore oil and natural gas production, increasing the value of natural gas produced in the Rockies.
- ♦ There is increased demand for natural gas to inject into storage for upcoming winter months.

Projected natural gas prices for December 2005 and January and February 2006 are at record highs due to constrained supplies and high demand. Hurricane damage interrupted Gulf Coast natural gas production, resulting in a 2005 product loss of at least 10 percent. In addition, constrained summer deliveries of coal contributed to the increased cost of natural gas in Colorado.



Federal Energy Assistance Funding Inadequate

Federal funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), known as LEAP in Colorado, is uncertain from year to year and is not meeting the current need. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the \$2.2 billion appropriated for 2005 is unusually low by historical standards, especially with the substantial increase in home heating prices anticipated this winter. Just to keep up with rising home heating prices would require a federal appropriation of \$5.2 billion, the Center estimates.

- ♦ According to the American Gas Association, the need for energy assistance far exceeded what was available between 1981 and 2002. (*“The Growing Need to Help Low-Income Energy Consumers: Government, Charitable and Utility Programs.”*)
- ♦ Sixty-six percent more households were eligible for federal energy aid in 2002 than in 1981, even though eligibility for LIHEAP remained limited to the very neediest – those living below 150 percent of poverty level and those eligible for other assistance programs, such as food stamps. The average recipient earns \$10,000 per year.
- ♦ The consumer price index increased 81 percent between 1981 and 2005, driven in part by rising energy prices, yet LIHEAP funding increased by just 4 percent. Due to the lack of funding, only 13 percent of the 33 million households eligible for LIHEAP nationally received assistance in 2002.
- ♦ Over the same period, low-income households installed energy efficiency and weatherization measures that reduced their home heating use by 31 percent and their total energy use by 22 percent. Even though low-income households use considerably less energy today, the energy used is higher priced and there are far more households with incomes near the poverty level than in 1981, when the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was created.

“In January 2006, those living in government quarters will be required to pay for their own utilities. I foresee that many of the young military families will fall behind...and this will be an added burden to their monthly finances.”
~ Vicki Kounk, the Home Front Cares in Colorado Springs

These national trends hold true in Colorado. For the 2004-05 heating season:

- ♦ Colorado’s share of LIHEAP funding (\$29.8 million) increased just slightly compared to the previous year’s allocation of \$28.5 million.
- ♦ Colorado LEAP also received three federal contingency payments totaling \$2.55 million because of adverse weather conditions, \$3.15 million from Energy Outreach Colorado, and \$10 million from the state, with \$7.6 million of that coming from the severance tax fund.
- ♦ At this level of funding, the Colorado LEAP program was able to assist 96,124 families with an average benefit of \$366 during the winter of 2004-05. This benefit covers just a portion of an average families’ energy bill.
- ♦ Energy Outreach Colorado distributed an additional \$3 million in assistance to 9,600 families through its Charitable Energy Network.
- ♦ Total funding from all sources available for low-income energy assistance in 2004-05 was just under \$40 million. Even at this level, however, **only one in four eligible families received assistance.**
- ♦ Because many more families are eligible for assistance and energy prices continue to rise a larger average benefit will be needed to make a difference for families this winter. **Additional funding for LEAP is a priority to meet the growing need.**

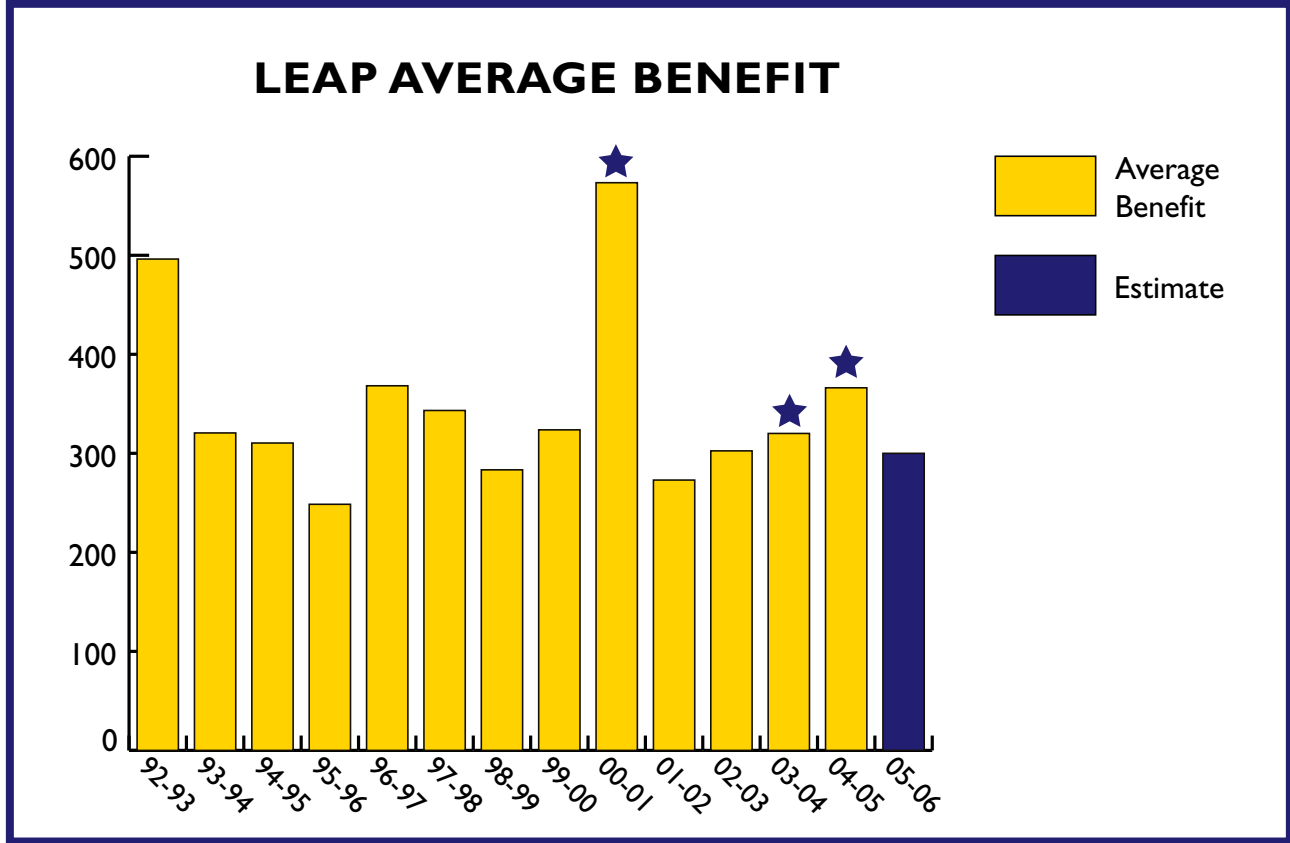


Impact of Weather on Energy Costs

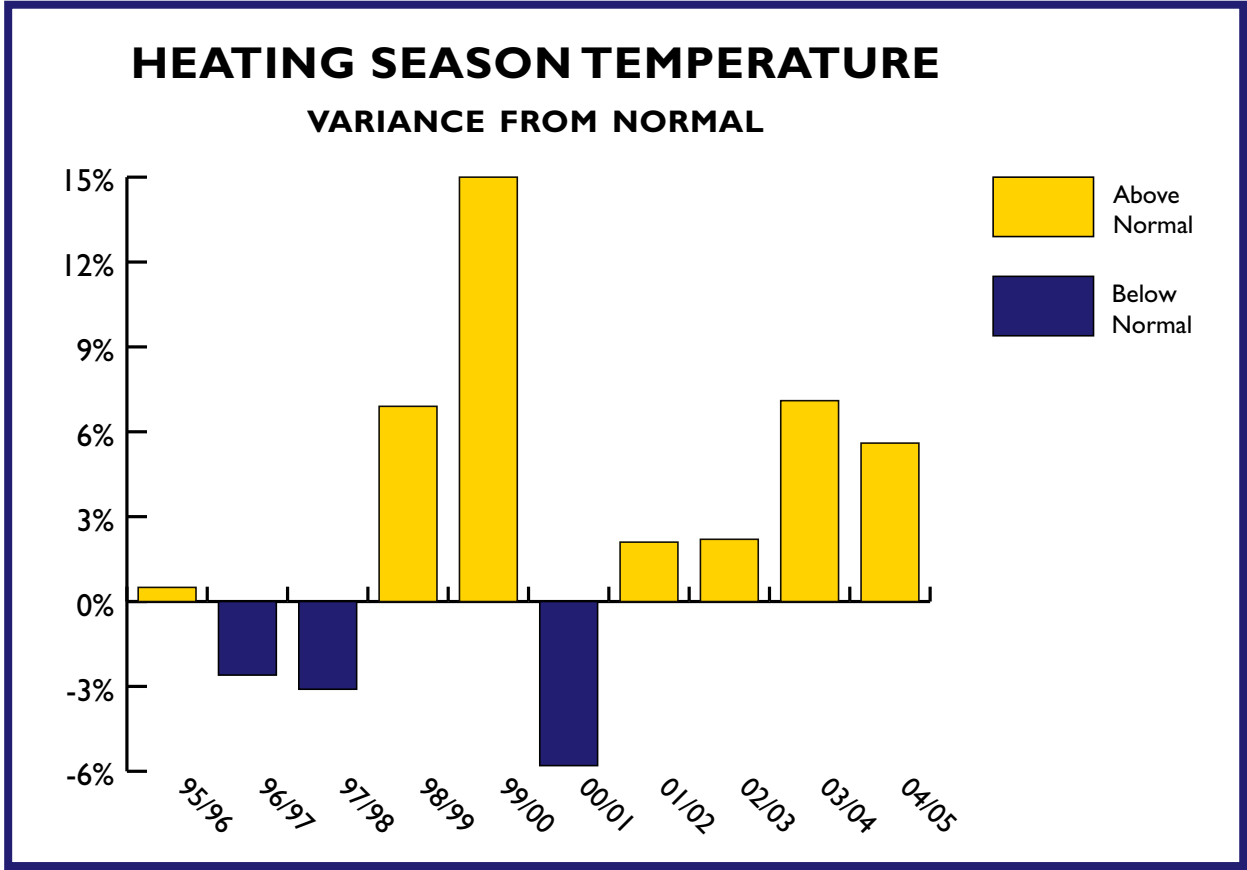
Weather significantly influences home heating costs. The past four heating seasons (October through April) have been warmer than the 10-year average, holding heating costs below what they normally would have been. The 2003-04 heating season was the warmest since 1999-00 and the second warmest winter in the past nine years. Even with normal weather and no change in energy prices, heating costs could rise substantially this winter. Colder than normal weather will just exacerbate the situation.

Summer temperatures affect electricity demand for cooling. Summer temperatures were higher than normal in 2005, impacting increasing natural gas demand for electric generation.

A colder than average winter could be even more devastating for Colorado families.



★ = The state of Colorado added \$10 million in addition to the Federal LIHEAP grant.



Source: National Weather Service – Denver Weather

Some Solutions

NEW FUNDING SOURCES CAN OFFSET RISING COSTS

Energy Outreach Colorado is working on several approaches to generate new funding sources to alleviate the burden of rising energy prices.

“Colorado residents will be facing perhaps the most difficult winter ever for energy costs. Xcel Energy is committed to working at all levels of our company to help address our customers’ energy needs.”

~ Xcel Energy President and CEO Richard Kelly

Utility Partnerships

Xcel Energy is the largest single donor to Energy Outreach Colorado and has contributed more than \$62 million over 15 years. The fourth-largest combination natural gas and electricity company in the nation, Xcel Energy serves about 70 percent of the state and helps promote Energy Outreach in its monthly bill. The company recently committed to donate \$2 million annually to Energy Outreach and match its customers’ donations up to an additional \$1 million a year. Xcel Energy also committed \$2.4 million a year for five years to continue its support of the state weatherization program, Energy Saving Partners.

In June 2003, the National Fuel Funds Network presented its first “Corporate Award for Excellence in Support of Low-Income Customers” to Xcel Energy for its long-standing support of low-income Coloradans.

Atmos Energy, the nation’s largest natural gas utility, has supported Energy Outreach since its inception in 1989. Atmos Energy encourages its customers to contribute to Energy Outreach through monthly donations on its bill and annual customer inserts. It matches customer contributions and donates additional funds through unclaimed utility deposits and regulatory settlements. Atmos Energy is the first utility to provide a check-off donation option to its 3.1 million customers in 12 states so they can add a contribution onto their monthly bill. In Colorado, those funds will be distributed to Energy Outreach.

Serving southern Colorado, **Aquila** also supports Energy Outreach by collecting customer donations and matching them through its Aquila Cares program. Aquila has made generous corporate contributions to Energy Outreach over the years and has committed \$500,000 across its seven-state service territory this year.

Kinder Morgan also provides inserts in its bills, has a Round-Up Program that directs funding to Energy Outreach and matches customer contributions.

Many municipal utilities and cooperative electric associations also partner with Energy Outreach.

Support from the Oil and Gas Community

Colorado’s oil and gas industry provides strong support to low-income families needing energy assistance. Producers and service companies are dedicated to the communities in which they work and live and give back exponentially. Over the last several years, the oil and gas industry has contributed more than \$1.5 million to support low-income energy assistance programs in Colorado.

- ♦ **Colorado Oil & Gas Association (COGA)** highlighted the issue at its annual conference, encouraged its member companies to contribute generously, and worked diligently to support legislation at the state and national levels to generate additional funding.
- ♦ **Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS)** raised about \$49,000 at a fundraiser held in conjunction with the IPAMS 2005 Annual Conference. Executives from Prima Exploration, Cordillera Energy Partners and Cimarex Energy teamed up with COGA and IPAMS to raise more than \$25,000 for Energy Outreach Colorado by biking through Colorado with the Pedal the Peaks Bicycle Challenge.

- ♦ **St. Mary Land & Exploration Company** doubled its annual contribution to \$100,000 for this winter.
- ♦ **National Fuel Marketing**, a Denver-based natural gas marketing company, raised \$21,000 for Energy Outreach at its Natural Gas Industry Charity Golf Tournament.
- ♦ Other companies also have committed substantial resources for energy assistance including **EnCana USA, Pioneer Natural Resources, Forest Oil and Western Gas Resources, and Mile High Oilmen.**

State Legislation

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Act was signed into law by Governor Bill Owens on May 5, 2005. The new law, which goes into effect in fall 2006, provides a simple way for Coloradans to contribute to energy assistance by checking a box on their energy bill if they wish to participate. Funds raised will be distributed through Energy Outreach Colorado as bill payment assistance and energy conservation assistance for Colorado’s low-income families, seniors and disabled people.

At a public ceremony at the State Capitol to sign the bill, Gov. Bill Owens said, “I believe Coloradans will choose to participate in this effort. Our state has a great history and tradition of helping those in need. And there is nothing more fundamental than helping provide a warm place to live.”



The House sponsor for the bill was Rep. Bernie Buescher, D-Grand Junction. Paula Sandoval, D-Denver, was the Senate sponsor of the legislation. Colorado is the only state in the country to enact public policy creating an optional energy assistance program to help low-income residents pay energy bills. All other energy assistance programs in the country created by public policy are mandatory and paid for through increased utility rates or public funding mechanisms. The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program will be overseen by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Municipal utilities and cooperative electric associations that certify they do not have a need or that they have other existing low-income assistance programs can choose to exclude themselves from the program.

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission is currently working on rulemaking proceedings and the legislation will go into effect in September 2006.

Royalty in Kind

The proposed Royalty-in-Kind program included in the recently passed federal Energy Bill creates a program to transfer some profits from the sale of natural gas obtained from federal lands to benefit low-income energy consumers. These funds are intended to supplement, and not replace, LIHEAP funds.

This concept was introduced in 2001 in a letter from Colorado Governor Bill Owens to Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and Vice President Dick Cheney. John Harpole, Energy Outreach board member and president of a Colorado-based natural gas marketing company, testified on behalf of the proposed program before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources in June 2001.

A pilot Royal-in-Kind program was included in the Energy Bill, authorizing the Secretary of Interior to grant “preference” to low-income energy consumers when disposing of royalty in kind gas. Xcel Energy and Western Gas Resources have agreed to participate in the pilot and are developing a program to implement in Colorado. The program is currently being considered at the Department of the Interior.

The Implications

NEED FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE IS AT A RECORD LEVEL

Natural gas prices are rising to historically high levels and no relief is in sight. Federal funding for LIHEAP is flat, and the Colorado LEAP program is reaching just 26% of the eligible population. Agencies distributing Energy Outreach Colorado funds for energy assistance often run out of money, creating waiting lists for assistance.

Even with energy assistance, recipients are getting an average annual benefit of just \$300 – barely enough to cover one month’s utility costs for a family of four. For every \$10 million in additional funding generated, families will receive just \$100 more per year. It would take an additional \$21 million this winter just to hold families in Colorado harmless with this winter’s expected energy price increase compared to last winter. However, additional funding is needed to bridge the gap.



“Heat is a basic necessity of life just like food and water. Many households take dangerous actions to pay their energy bills and avoid being shut-off, such as skipping meals, forgoing or cutting medications, living in excessive cold, or using the oven for heat. Some move after their utilities have been shut off, causing more transience among this population of students and working adults.”

~ National Energy Assistance Survey Report Key Findings, 2005

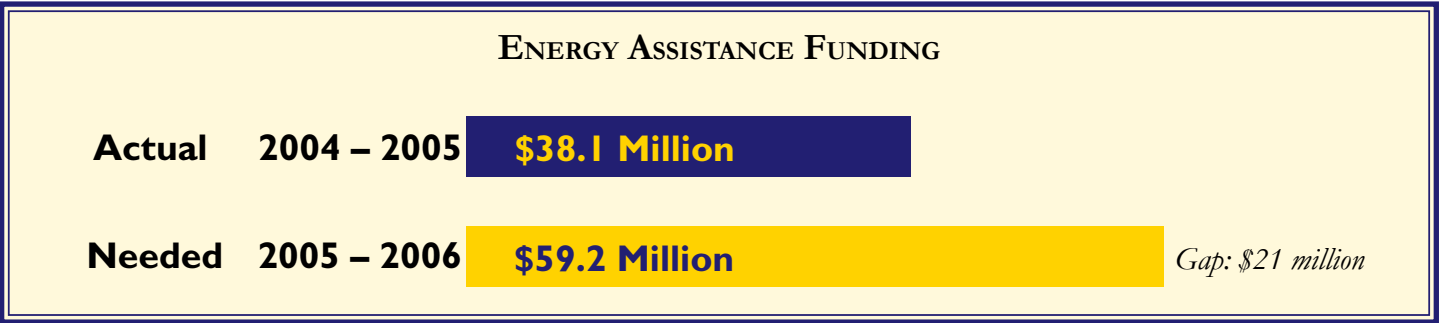
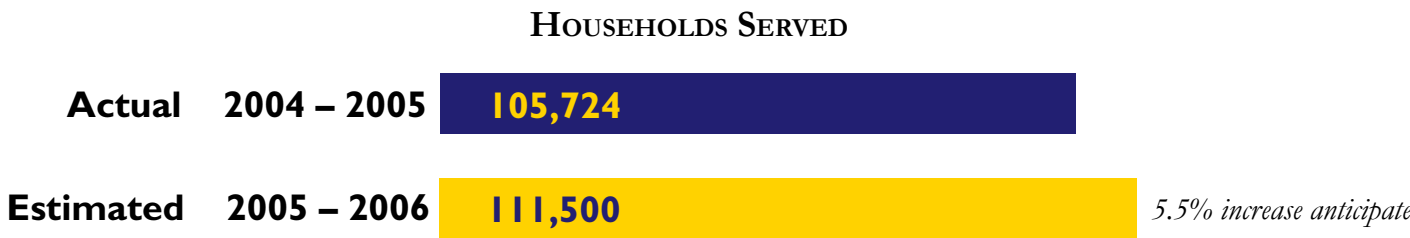
The Gap

ASSISTANCE FUNDING ISN’T KEEPING PACE

The amount of energy assistance funding available is not keeping up with increasing energy costs and need. The average benefit paid to households in Colorado last winter was \$366. This winter, to keep pace with an anticipated 45% increase in energy costs, the average benefit would need to increase to \$531 just to stay even.

In addition, it is expected that the number of households applying for assistance will increase by 5.5% – from 105,724 last heating season to 111,500 this winter.

Thus, it will take \$21 million more just to match the level of assistance provided last year.



Filling the Gap

COLORADO NEEDS \$21 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING

There are a number of efforts that Coloradans can support to help fill the gap.

- ◆ Increase national LIHEAP funding from \$2 billion to \$5 billion as proposed in the new Federal Energy Bill.
- ◆ Coloradans add a donation directly to their personal or business utility bill to donate to Energy Outreach Colorado or other energy assistance providers.
- ◆ A federal Royalty-in-Kind program may be piloted in Colorado that will relieve some of the burden of families for this winter.
- ◆ Permanently secure severance tax or excess royalty money coming into the state for low-income energy assistance programs.
- ◆ Continue to work to educate low-income families about the importance of conservation and energy efficiency.
- ◆ Develop innovative programs to train public, private and nonprofit affordable housing developers about the value of building to higher energy efficiency standards for the long-term benefits to the residents and the environment.
- ◆ Strengthen outreach efforts to encourage more eligible Colorado families to apply for available funding.

Sun Power provides a Colorado resident with energy efficiency tips to help lower her home's energy bill.



Energy Outreach, LEAP and the Charitable Energy Network helped constituents apply for energy assistance at this year's Energy Assistance Expo.



Reasons to Support Energy Assistance

HELPING STRUGGLING COLORADANS HELPS ALL OF US



Investing in energy assistance is investing in the quality of life in Colorado. A staggering 22 percent of Colorado households are considered low-income and at risk of not being able to afford home energy or other basic necessities. It makes economic sense to help these families and seniors remain healthy and safe. And, it is the right thing to do.

If more of Colorado's households can pay their energy bills, utility companies can reduce their bad debt write-offs and collection expenses and keep rates lower for all consumers. From an environmental standpoint, improved energy efficiency

through energy management and conservation can also lower costs and improve the quality of our air, water and other natural resources.

Energy Outreach Colorado

Energy Outreach Colorado is one of the largest and most successful fuel funds in the country. With a 16-year proven track record and a statewide network of established emergency assistance agencies, Energy Outreach can ensure that every energy assistance dollar is managed efficiently and utilized to the fullest. Energy Outreach operates on an average of just six percent for administrative and fundraising costs. In fact, Energy Outreach is recognized annually for its efficient use of funds by Charity Navigator, a national, independent rater of non-profit organizations. It also is approved by the Better Business Bureau.

Energy Outreach completes extensive evaluations and audits of the partners it works with, the majority of which are faith-based organizations. Bill payments for recipients are made directly to utility companies, and funds going to LEAP are leveraged with additional resources to assist even more families each year.

In addition to bill payment assistance, Energy Outreach also funds longer-term solutions that increase the energy efficiency of affordable housing, so that some families never need energy assistance.

As an advocate for Colorado's low-income population, Energy Outreach is a central point for information regarding low-income energy issues in Colorado.

In 2004-05 Energy Outreach:

- ◆ Provided LEAP with \$3.15 million to help assist 96,124 Colorado families
- ◆ Distributed \$3 million to nearly 9,600 families through its partner network of 90 emergency assistance organizations in all 64 Colorado counties
- ◆ Distributed \$600,000 to 21 affordable housing projects to increase energy efficiency measures and reduce future energy costs for more than 500 single-family and multi-family households
- ◆ Educated 7,600 children about energy efficiency in cooperation with the Colorado Energy Science Center and Eco-Cycle through an innovative school program
- ◆ Worked to secure Senate Bill 05-201 to appropriate excess severance taxes to LEAP in the amount of \$7.6 million
- ◆ Worked to pass the Low-Income Energy Assistance Act (SB 05-001) which provides a voluntary program for Coloradans to donate to generate more energy assistance funding

Energy Outreach Colorado Programs

UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Energy Outreach relies heavily on its partnership with emergency assistance agencies across the state. These agencies form the Charitable Energy Network, which handles the distribution of Energy Outreach funds to those in need.

The network was established in 1994 after Energy Outreach determined it was critical to be able to get energy assistance funds to needy families year round. At that time, Energy Outreach pulled together 11 agencies in the Denver area to distribute \$75,000 between May and October of 1994. The need for energy assistance continued to increase and by 2005, the network has grown to 92 agencies in all 64 counties, operating year round to distribute \$4 million.

Energy Outreach typically helps pay the portion of a household’s past-due energy bill that ensures their utility service isn’t shut off, so that they can then establish a plan to pay off the balance and stay current on their bills moving forward. That portion – which is paid directly to the utility company – is growing as energy costs take a larger share of low-income families’ monthly income.

Energy Outreach Colorado is reaching into its emergency funds this fall and plans to distribute a record \$6.15 million for bill payment assistance this winter. This includes \$4 million to the Charitable Energy Network and \$2.15 million to Colorado’s LEAP program, which operates from November through April. Since its inception, Energy Outreach will have distributed more than \$56 million to help less fortunate Colorado families.

Agencies participating in the network are as varied as the Coloradans they’re committed to helping. The majority are faith-based organizations, others are government offices. Some are dedicated to helping the ill; others are dedicated to helping the elderly. Two help only Native American tribal members, while another helps only military personnel. One of the largest is Catholic Charities, which operates throughout the state to help thousands of Colorado families and seniors pay bills, find work and improve their lives.



Organizations in the Charitable Energy Network: 2005–2006

- Adams County Housing Authority
Adventist Community Service
Advocates Against Domestic Violence
Almost Home
Association for Senior Citizens
Aurora InterChurch Task Force
Boulder County AIDS Project
Brain Injury Association, Colorado
Broadway Assistance Center
Care and Share, Colorado Springs
Caring Ministries, Morgan County
Castle Rock Community Inter-Church Task Force
Catholic Charities, Denver
Catholic Charities, Pueblo
City of Arvada Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization
Clear Creek Department of Human Services
Colorado East Community Action Agency
Colorado Health Network
Community Budget Center
Community Emergency Assistance Coalition
Community Ministry
Community United Methodist Church, Pagosa Springs
Cooperating Ministry, Logan County
Cross Community Coalition
Crossroads Ministry, Estes Park
Denver Indian Health and Family Services
Denver Urban Ministries
Emergency Family Assistance Association
EMPOWERMENT
Family & Intercultural Resource Center
First Mennonite Church
First Presbyterian Church, Salida
Grand Valley Catholic Outreach
Gunnison/Hinsdale County Department of Human Services
Helping Hearts and Hands
Help the Needy
Holy Cross Energy
House of Neighborly Service
Independent Life Center
Inter-Church ARMS
Inter-Faith Community Services
- Jackson County Department of Human Services
Jeffco Action Center
La Puente Home
Lake County Health and Human Services
Las Animas Helping Hands
Lift-Up, Routt County
Loaves and Fishes Ministry
Lowry Family Center
MADA
Manna House
Metro CareRing
Mountain Family Center
Mountain Resource Center
National MS Society, Colorado
Northern Churches Care
Northern Colorado AIDS Project
OUR Center
Phillips County Department of Human Services
Pinon Project
POCCAA
Rocky Mountain Cancer Centers Foundation
Rural Communities Resource Center
Salvation Army, Colorado Springs
Salvation Army, Denver
Salvation Army, Teller County
Salvation Army, Vail Valley
San Juan Cooperative Parish
San Pedro Mesa Volunteer Fire Department
Sedgwick County Economic Development
Senior Support Services
Seniors! Inc.
Seniors’ Resource Center
Sense of Security
South Central Council of Governments
Southern Colorado AIDS Project
St. Vincent De Paul Society
The Home Front Cares
The Stand in the Gap Project
Tri-Lakes Cares
United Methodist Church, Dove Creek
Western Colorado AIDS Project

Energy Efficiency and Affordable Housing Program

Energy Outreach Colorado is committed to long-term energy solutions by helping low-income families reduce their energy bills and dependency for bill payment assistance, as well as to improve the health, safety and comfort of their homes. The Energy Solutions Grants (ESG) program accomplishes this by increasing the energy efficiency in affordable housing throughout Colorado. The organization also supports energy efficiency education and other weatherization programs.

Energy Solutions grants were first initiated by Energy Outreach in 1995. Energy Outreach focuses on new affordable housing construction, as well as rehabilitation projects that are not already funded by the state weatherization program – Energy Saving Partners. From 1995-2004 the organization has awarded 74 grants totaling \$1,942,620 to help non-profit organizations provide energy efficiency measures to new and existing homes across Colorado.

Thanks to a one-time grant from the dissolution of a non-profit organization called the Partnership for a Better Community, funding was doubled from \$300,000 in 2003-2004 to \$600,000 for the 2004-2005 ESG projects. This past year more than 500 single-family and multi-family households were assisted. Another \$500,000 will be awarded this winter.

The Energy Hog Traveling Road Show is a free elementary school program for grades 3-6 in income-qualifying schools throughout Colorado. Students learn about where energy comes from, how energy is used, how energy is wasted and how to save energy. Since the Energy Hog Traveling Road Show was created in 2003, it has visited 92 schools and reached more than 11,000 students and families.

Energy Outreach recently launched a pilot training program with Habitat for Humanity Colorado and Metro Denver to promote the importance of energy efficiency to affordable housing organizations. The program provides information about the most effective energy efficiency measures, the cost of incorporating them and the eventual cost-savings to the owner. Attendees receive a comprehensive resource packet that includes lists of certified energy raters and funding sources for energy efficiency measures, and information about other energy efficiency programs such as Energy Star.

Organizations Receiving Energy Solutions Grants: 2005–2006

Boulder County Housing Authority
Center for Resource Conservation
Colorado Energy Science Center
Habitat for Humanity of Colorado
Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver
Lakewood Housing Authority
Rebuilding Together of Metro Denver
South Central Council of Governments
Sun Power
The Park People
The Uptown Partnership



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Colorado Commission on LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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For more information on Energy Outreach Colorado, please go to www.EnergyOutreach.org
Annual reports including the organization's financial data are available online.

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Together we generate the power to help.



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